

Original Draft, G-7, p. 26, line 578-80 : In South Asia, while based in Hindu scripture, Sikhism arose as new religion that challenged the authority of the Brahmin and borrowed moral elements from Islamic Sufism.

Draft 2014-15; G-7, p.210, line 1691-1696

In South Asia Sikhism arose as a new religion founded by Guru Nanak, a social reformer who challenged the authority of the Brahmin and the power of the Mughal empire. Students may learn about the Sikh Scripture (*Guru Granth Sahib*), articles of faith, turban, and Sikh history. The three basic principles of Sikhism are honest living, sharing with the needy, and praying to the same and one God.

**Recommended Version:** " In South Asia, Sikhism arose as a new religion founded by Guru Nanak (1469-1539), who preached equality of all human-beings, and challenged the power of the Mughal Empire. The three pillars of Sikhism are honest living, sharing with the needy, and praying to the same one God. Students may learn about the Sikh Scripture (*Guru Granth Sahib*), articles of faith, turban, and Sikh history. "

**Reference Grade 8, page 241, line 2375** –“The Gold Rush in California and agricultural labor in Hawaii spurred Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Filipino , Hindu and Sikh immigration to the United States.”

**Comment:** Records of sporadic visits of East Indian sailors to USA go back to 1670, but do not constitute immigration (1). According to one source (2) the first wave of Sikh immigrants to North America began in 1890, but according to [www.oxfordsikhs.com](http://www.oxfordsikhs.com) it started in 1897. Most East Indian immigrants were strong male laborers, and worked in sawmills, built railroads and started farming (2) . The first group of East Indians who were allowed to land in San Francisco on April 6, 1899 were Sikhs. Father of Kartar Kaur Dhillon also emigrated to California in 1899 (3).

**California’s Gold Rush of 1849** did not have any direct or immediate effect on East Indian immigration to USA . Between 1903 and 1908, about 6,000 Punjabis entered Canada and nearly 3,000 crossed into USA. They worked in sawmills, and in construction of railroads, while others set up farms in California, or worked as farm labor. There is no evidence for East Indians (Hindu or Sikh) immigration to Hawaii for work as agricultural labor.

**“Pioneer Asian Indian Immigration to the Pacific Coast”** in the website of UC Davis librarian, late Mr. T.S. Sibia ([www.sikhpioneers.org](http://www.sikhpioneers.org) ) mentions that during 1900-1917 some 7348 Asian Indians entered US and Canada, and they consisted of 85% Sikhs, 13% Muslims, and 2% Hindus. They originated from Lahore, Amritsar, Ferozepur, Gurdaspur, Ludhiana, Sialkot and more so from Jalandhar and Hoshiarpur districts of Punjab. There is no mention of non-Punjabis. Further, the few East Indian students at Berkeley for higher education did not constitute immigrants.

**Recommendation: In the light of the above, I recommend deletion of the words “Hindu and Sikh” and the sentence should read, “The Gold Rush in California and agricultural labor in Hawaii spurred Chinese, Korean, Japanese, and Filipino immigration to the United States.”**

**References:**

1. Becoming American, 2012, PAHS, Yuba City, p12.
2. Sikh Community Over 100 Years in the Pacific Northwest, Wing Luke Asian Museum, Seattle, 1913; p.21.
3. 100 Years in the USA, Pacific Coast Khalsa Diwan Society, Gurdwara Sahib Stockton, ISBN978-0-9814992-8-4; p19 & 73.